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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/552,499

10/07/2005

Hiroshi Kodera

050-113

2278

7590

10/22/2007

Apex Juris

13194 Edgewater Lane Northeast
Seattle, WA 98125

EXAMINER

SINGH, KAVEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3651

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

10/22/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/552,499

Applicant(s)

KODERA, HIROSHI

Examiner

Kavel P. Singh

Art Unit

3651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 August 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION***Response to Arguments***

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph to claims 2 and 3 has been withdrawn.

Applicant's arguments filed 8/17/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Kobayashi teaches a turntable, but not at an incline as the Applicant's invention. Kobayashi discloses rotating the turntable about the longitudinal axis by the specified angle and slide means for sliding the turntable in its radial direction. Applicant further argues that the positioning of the receiving recess, which as claimed receiving recesses (P) receive the waterproof seal (2) with top thereof directing a center of the receiving portion (Fig. 1). Kobayashi discloses in Figure 1, the waterproof seal (2) in recess (12) on top of the receiving portion (10). Kobayashi then teaches waterproof plugs (2) is picked up by the pin member of the conveyor device moved upward and downward (C6 L23-25) which is the direction of removing the plugs. Kobayashi does teach a vibratory means, where the Applicant does not, but it should not matter since Kobayashi teaches the other claimed features. Applicant further argues that Kobayashi does not teach a cover, but as shown in Figure 1, cover (10) mounting on support member (20) restricting the movements of the waterproof seals (C4 L15-20). For the foregoing reasons, claims 1-4 stand rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1,2, and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by

Kobayashi U.S. Patent No. 5,609,463.

Claim 1, Kobayashi teaches a receiving portion (P) with directionality for receiving a waterproof seal (2) which is a disc-like rotating body with inclination in a predetermined angle; a receiving recess radially provided at the periphery of the receiving portion to be released in an outside of an axial right angle of the receiving portion and an upper surface, the receiving recesses (P) receive the waterproof seal (2) with top thereof directing a center of the receiving portion (Fig. 1); a cover (10) for restricting a movement of the receiving portion of the waterproof seal (2) received by the receiving recess toward the outside of the axial right angle and surrounding the periphery of the receiving portion (C4 L15-20); a take-out means with a take-out exit opening at an inner circumferential surface of the cover to taking out the waterproof seal received in the receiving recess in the axial right direction; a moving means for moving the receiving recess from a receiving region where the waterproof seal (2) is received by the receiving recess to the take-out means by way of a rotational motion of the receiving portion (C4 L41-43); and an exclusion means for eliminating a chance of moving the waterproof seal which is not received by the receiving recess (12) and is among the waterproof seals (2) from the receiving region to the take-out means.

Claim 2, Kobayashi teaches a first sensor for detecting a positioning bore standing corresponding to the receiving recess and a second sensor for detecting a slit formed in

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the receiving recess; and a controlling means for controlling starting and stopping of the moving means and switching of a valve sending compressed air to the take out means as determining that the waterproof seal is received by the receiving recess when a result of the receiving detection means shows that the first sensor detects the positioning bore and the second sensor does not detect the slit (C5 L42-49).

Claim 4, Kobayashi teaches the waterproof seal (2) supplied from the parts feeder is inserted in an end of an electrical transmission cable (W); and a connecting terminal is attached to perform press-connection (C4 L8-10).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi U.S.

Patent No. 5,609,463 in view of Mochizuki U.S. Patent No. 5,826,697.

Claim 3, Kobayashi teaches the has a motor (40); and the controlling means, when taking out the waterproof seal (2) by the taking out means, controls the moving means to stop the movement of the receiving portion (C5 L42-49), but does not teach a stepping motor as Mochizuki teaches (1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a stepping motor as taught by

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Mochizuki into the invention of Kobayashi to allow the disc to rotate forwards or backwards.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ms. Kavel P. Singh whose telephone number is (571) 272-2362. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Crawford can be reached on (571) 272-6911. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

KPS


GEO. O. CRAWFORD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER